Government Aided polytechnic colleges have already been provided financial assistance by the Central Government to the State Government for setting up of polytechnics during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Toxic food being served under Mid-Day Meal scheme

†3333. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children are getting food with toxic contents due to carelessness in implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is rampant corruption in this scheme;

(c) if so, whether Government is planning any effective scheme including control and vigil for building India of the future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The overall responsibility to provide wholesome and nutritious food to children in schools under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Isolated and sporadic instances of food poisoning or uneatable material being found in the food do come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Some cases of misuse of foodgrains and funds provided for the MDMS have come to the notice of the Government through various sources, like newspaper reports, reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Monitoring Institutions etc.

(c) and (d) As and when any report regarding misuse of resources provided for the MDMS comes to the notice of the Central Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct a suitable enquiry into the complaint and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and also to initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future. In order to curb possibility of corruption in implementing the scheme elaborate monitoring mechanism has been prescribed for all levels. In the Scheme Guidelines, emphasis has been laid on transparency such as *suo-moto* display of information on weekly/monthly basis on (i) quantity of foodgrains received, date of receipt; (ii) quantity of foodgrains utilized; (iii) other ingredients purchased, utilized; (iv) number of children given mid day meal; (v) daily menu; and (vi) roster of Community Members involved in the programme, participation of Gram Panchayat/Gram Sabha, Members of Village Education Committee, Parent-Teacher Association and Local women's/Mothers' Self Help Group. Besides, in District Level Committee public representatives (MPs, MLAs) and elected members of Zila Parishad have also been included to monitor and supervise the implementation of the programme. Officers of State/UT Government are required to inspect on an average 25% of the schools every quarter and all schools at least once every year. In addition,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

States and Union Territories are required to develop a dedicated mechanism for Public Grievance Redressal, which should be widely publicized and made easily accessible.

Board for madarsas

3334 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not pursuing formation of Board for Muslim madarsas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what Government thinks in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The proposal in regard to establishing a Central Madrasa Board, through an Act of Parliament, for standardizing the education in modern subjects of Science, Maths, etc. which are non-theological, was proposed in a report of a National Conference organized by the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI). Since it is not a proposal initiated by the Government, any decision in this regard shall be taken only in the event of there being consensus among all stakeholders.

150th Anniversary of Shri Rabindranath Tagore

3335. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO proposes to celebrate 150th anniversary of Shri Rabindranath Tagore at an international scale next year;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the contribution Government proposes to make for this event?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At the initiative of UNESCO, and with the encouragement of UNESCO Member States, the UNESCO General Conference has decided that the 150th anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore will be commemorated at UNESCO and within India. In consultation with Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development and UNESCO an appropriate event will be held at UNESCO to commemorate this great event which had also been commemorated earlier in 1961.

Task force for proposed NCHER and evolving national testing scheme

3336. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently set up a task force for the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) and to evolve a national testing scheme for college admissions; and